T. V. programmes depicting handicapped people in mocking manner

286. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some T. V. programmes had depicted handicapped people and mentally retarded people in a mocking manner;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines existing to prevent such depiction; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that such scenes or roles are not aired?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No such case has come to notice.

(b) and (c) The overall guideline observed by Doordarshan in the programmes on the handicapped is to emphasise that given proper care and opportunity, they are fully capable of looking after themselves and to serve as useful members of the society. The programmes depicting the handicapped in an unfavourable light are scrupulously avoided.

Migration of Sindhis from Pakistan to India

287. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Sindhis from Pakistan have migrated to India recently;

(b) if so, what is their total number so far and what steps Government have taken for their rehabilitation indicating the expenditure incurred till July, 1990;

(c) whether Government of India have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan in order to know the circumstances which led to such a large scale migration of Sindhis to our country so that a similar situation may not arise in future; and

(d) by when, Government are contemplating to send them back to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) No. The Government however, are aware that persons belonging to minority communities in Pakistan especially Sindhis have been coming to India for some time on valid short term visas. Extensions of stay are granted on merits. Since they are all self-supporting there is no question of framing any rehabilitation plans for them.

(b) The developments in Pakistan are an internal affairs of that country and Government of India would not interfere.

(c) Since these persons are self-supporting and as long as they do not pose any problem the Government do not have any plans to formally send them back to Pakistan.

Smuggling of children to gulf countries

288. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the smuggling of children to the Gulf countries for Camel races has increased during the last six months; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to check the smuggling of children to the Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and

(b) Government are aware that in the recent past, there have been instances of Indian children being used as camel riders in the Gulf. In all known instances, Indian Embassies got in touch with the local government and got the children repatriated.

Recently, there have been cases where agents engaged in smuggling of children from India for camel riding have been stopped at the airport and appropriate action has been taken against these recruiting agents. Law enforcement agencies have been alerted to take all necessary measures.

Sri Lankan offer to take back all Tamil refugees

289. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Government has offered to take back all the Tamil refugees from Tamil Nadu and has assured to look after them with adequate security;

(b) if so, the number of Tamil refugees who came to Tamil Nadu during the past three months;

(c) the details of the assistance provided by the Central Government; and

(d) the reaction of the Central Government on the offer made by Sri Lankan Government to take back all refugees?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) A statement to this effect was made in the Sri Lankan Parliament by the Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defence.

(b) From 1.5.90 to 31.7.90, 47241 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have come to Tamil Nadu.

(c) The Central Government meets the expenditure incurred by the State Government on the refugees and on an average incurs an expenditure of approximately Rs. 1,000 per month on a family of five. This includes cash doles, clothing subsidised ration facilities etc.

(d) Government welcome the offer. But in the ultimate analysis the return of refugees to their homes can only be motivated by the return of peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka.

Expiry of visas of foreigners in India

290. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreigners are overstaying in the country despite the expiry of their visas;

(b) if so, the number of foreigners overstaying in the country;

(c) what action Government have taken against them so far; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to send them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Some foreigners, mostly Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals, are reported to be overstaying in the country.

(b) A State-wise statement giving the number of Pakistan nationals overstaying in the country as on 31.12.1989 is attached. (*See* below). As regards the number of Bangladeshi or other nationals overstaying in the country, no reliable statistics is available.

(c) As and when any foreigners overstays and is detected under the foreigners Act/Rules is taken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to either prosecute him or deport him.

(d) The State authorities have been directed to take effective measures to deport overstaying foreigners.